

John Kennedy's words, we will pay any price, bear any burden to defend freedom here and around the world. God blesses America, God blesses America through the resolve and the courage of its people and its commitment to freedom.

REFLECTING ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this moment marks the second anniversary of the surprise attacks on America in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. As we reflect on why America was attacked, I believe it is clearer than ever: It is because America is the symbol of liberty and freedom in the world.

Our values of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and the opportunities for women to fully participate in society are cherished. But these values are a challenge to evil people who fear our freedoms as undermining their enslavement of others.

Our resolve to promote democracy is unwavering, and the pledge of President Bush has never been more correct. We will not waiver, we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail. Today, I depart on a delegation to Baghdad to thank our brave Armed Forces, and it has never been more appropriate to declare: God bless our troops and God bless America.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mr. McNULTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join with the citizens of the United States of America and the citizens of the free world in remembering the victims of September 11, 2001.

I also remember their families. I think of my friends, John and Judy Reo of New York, who lost their son John Reo, and their son-in-law, John Swain, on that day.

I also remember with deepest gratitude all of the emergency personnel, the police officers, the firefighters, and the others who, when the masses were running away from the tower buildings, ran toward the buildings, into the buildings, up the stairs, many to their deaths. Why did they do that? Because that is their job, and they did it very well on that day. Because the vast majority of the people in those tower buildings below the point of impact of those planes survived, and they survived because of the heroic efforts of those police officers, firefighters, and the others who ran to their aid. So we should remember their contributions

on a daily basis, because they are on guard for us 365 days a year to protect our lives all over this country.

And, finally, I join with all of you, with deepest gratitude, to the leaders of this Nation for bringing us together. And we should remember to remain united as a Nation, because if we remain united as a Nation, the forces of evil shall never prevail.

TRIBUTE TO C.E. "PEP" COONEY OF ARIZONA

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of C.E. "Pep" Cooney, an Arizona television icon. Pep's career in broadcasting spanned more than 45 years, taking him from advertising to president to general manager at KPNX, where he led that station to its stature as the number one rated television station in the State.

Pep's nightly commentaries, or "Pep talks," made him one of Arizona's most recognizable figures. Pep was also the quintessential community leader. Whether he was lending his talents to the Valley Big Brothers, United Way, Boy Scouts, the Fiesta Bowl, or countless other organizations, Pep was constantly engaged in activities to benefit the Valley and the State of Arizona. When the history of Arizona is written, Pep Cooney and the institutions he help to build and maintain will be a prominent feature.

It is a rare individual who can be successful with his career, while devoting so much time to his community. It is truly an exceptional individual who can succeed in these areas while putting his family first. Pep was admired and respected by his colleagues and community. Most importantly, however, Pep was adored by his family. As a neighbor and friend to some of Pep's children and grandchildren, I have had the good fortune to watch them together. Surely the youngest of Pep's grandchildren knew little of his career success or his standing in the community. They just knew that they were his priority.

That, Mr. Speaker, is Pep Cooney's most enduring legacy. May it be ours as well.

MAKING AMERICANS SAFE

(Mr. DeFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the way Congress and the President could best commemorate the terrorist attack, the tragedy of 9/11, and the loss of thousands of innocent lives would be to ensure that we have done all in our power both here and abroad, that Americans are as safe as possible against another assault.

Unfortunately, as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and a senior member of the Subcommittee on Aviation, I can say with confidence that we have fallen far short of that mark. Significant portions of the Aviation Security Act have not been implemented. Our first responders, those who responded so selflessly on that tragic day, still lack basic resources and help from the Federal Government, even as Congress is considering the President's request for another \$87 billion for Iraq.

On this day, Congress should resolve to remember by redoubling its efforts, avoiding dangerous distractions, and providing all the funds necessary so we can say with confidence, never again.

HONORING THE FALLEN

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard so often this morning, this is a special day, and it is appropriate for us to take the time to honor the fallen and acknowledge our gratitude to our first responders and to our brave men and women who are serving here in this country and half a world away.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also appropriate to take a moment to honor those who were here and served in this House 2 years ago. Mr. Speaker, as you have pointed out, this building, this House, was, in fact, one of the purported targets of the terrorists that morning, terror that was prevented by the actions of passengers high above the Pennsylvania countryside. Like millions of Americans, I began that day narrowly focused on my own personal concerns, and like millions of Americans, I ended that day watching Members of this House singing God bless America on the Capitol steps at sunset.

On that day, I did not know that my path would lead me here. But I remember the peace that was brought to me and my family by the visible cohesiveness of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for that day and I thank you for this day as well.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I, like many of my colleagues here this morning, rise to talk about September 11 and what it means to all of us as Americans, what it means to me as a New Yorker in particular, and the fact that these brave people that lost their lives, more than 3,000 of them, our lives will never again be the same. America lost its innocence that day, and we have been thinking ever since about how we can best respond to ensure that we can

prevent these ugly acts of terrorism against our country.

Mr. Speaker, terrorism is everyone's enemy and a civilized world needs to ban together to fight terrorism. Here in America, we have had September 11; but 6,000 miles away, the brave people of Israel every day have to cope with ongoing acts of terror. The other day two horrific suicide bombings killed nearly 20 people, and 2 weeks ago, when I was in Israel, a bus bombing killed 22 people, including 5 Americans, 3 of my constituents.

When I go back to New York every week and look at the New York skyline and do not see the World Trade Center, I feel our city is not yet whole and something is missing. It has been 2 years since September 11, 2001, but I feel like I have aged 20 years since then. In my office is a two-page spread from the New York Times. It has pictures of the 300-plus firefighters who died that day in New York. Most of the pictures are of young men who are the same age as my daughter. One of them is the picture of a friend's son, Christian Regenhart.

When I look at the faces of these brave people, I have often thought what can I, as a Congressman, do to ensure this never happens again, and I think we need to make sure that the funding is there so our first responders can respond, and we need to make sure that the brave people who protect us have all the resources they need. We need to also make sure that the people who lost their lives that day are never forgotten. In a few minutes, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and I are going to talk about the True American Heroes Act of 2003.

The bill posthumously awards Congressional Gold Medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and who perished, and to people aboard United Airlines Flight 93. We owe it to ourselves and our families and our countrymen to ensure this never happens again.

THE UNCONQUERABLE AMERICAN SPIRIT

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the world reflects this morning upon an act of barbarism that remains too horrific for words. Two years ago, a gang of murderers shattered our complacency regarding the reach and resolve of the international merchants of hate.

Nevertheless, we also learned about the resiliency of our Nation on that awful day. When terrorists attacked the heart of America's financial and military centers, they forgot about the heart of the American people. Our country's strength lies not in its institutions, but in the courage, character and the determination of the people who built them.

On this somber anniversary, we honor the memory of the husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters who lost their lives in this heinous attack, as well as the heroes who sacrificed everything to save them.

As we remember the trauma and grief of September 11, 2001, may we continue to discover the seeds of hope and the endurance of the unconquerable American spirit.

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it was the brother of a man from The Dalles, the son of parents from Pendleton that perished, the extent of the tragedy that struck America, the terrible terrorist acts of September 11 spread like tentacles across the country.

While our innocence was shattered that day, America's resolve and our commitment and unity was invigorated and strengthened. We have responded domestically in strengthening our security. We have responded internationally in building coalitions to take the battle to the terrorists. We have had great victories. We face great challenges.

Together as a country, and as a Congress under the leadership of our President, we are making a difference for our first responders at home and to secure our borders, to make air traffic safer and air travel safer, and to root out the terrorists where they are, instead of waiting for them to come back here. We have seized 1,400 bank accounts and \$200 million, two-thirds of al Qaeda's leadership were killed, and 42 of 55 of Saddam Hussein's top advisors, strategists and planners of hate are no longer a problem. We all know there is more work to do. As a Congress and as a country, we must resolve to do that work, to do it with a clear focus and a great unity which befits this great country of ours. Together we are Americans, and may we ask for God's blessing for our leadership and our future.

TRUE AMERICAN HEROES ACT OF 2003

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of September 10, 2003, I call up the bill (H.R. 1538) to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and perished and to the people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who helped resist the hijackers and caused the plane to crash, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America, recognizing the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and

for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 1538 is as follows:

H.R. 1538

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "True American Heroes Act of 2003".

TITLE I—MEDALS FOR RESPONDERS AND RESISTERS

SEC. 101. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS WHO RESPONDED TO THE ATTACKS ON THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PERISHED.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—In recognition of the bravery and self-sacrifice of officers, emergency workers, and other employees of State and local government agencies, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and of the United States Government and others, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001 (including those who are missing and presumed dead), the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design for each such officer, emergency worker, employee, or other individual to the next of kin or other personal representative of each such officer, emergency worker, employee, or other individual.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary to be emblematic of the valor and heroism of the men and women honored.

(c) DETERMINATION OF RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the number of medals to be presented under this section and the appropriate recipients of the medals after consulting with appropriate representatives of Federal, State, and local officers and agencies and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

(d) DUPLICATIVE GOLD MEDALS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DUTY STATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike duplicates in gold of the gold medals struck pursuant to subsection (a) for presentation to each of the following, for permanent display in the respective offices, houses, stations, or places of employment:

(A) The Governor of the State of New York.

(B) The Mayor of the City of New York.

(C) The Commissioner of the New York Police Department, the Commissioner of the New York Fire Department, the head of emergency medical services for the City of New York, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

(D) Each precinct house, fire house, emergency response station, or other duty station or place of employment to which each person referred to in subsection (a) was assigned on September 11, 2001, for display in each such place in a manner befitting the memory of such persons.

(e) DUPLICATE BRONZE MEDALS.—Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under subsection (a) at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,